Coaches in passenger and express trains

411. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of passenger and express trains increased in Ninth Five Year Plan period;

(b) the corresponding increase in the number of coaches during that period;

(c) whether absence of increase in coaches has resulted in over-use of the available stock, with a drastic effect on their health and rail-worthiness; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken to increase production of coaches in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS(SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) Trains are not introduced Plan-wise but on an yearly basis depending upon traffic justification, operational feasibility and availability of resources.

(b) The passenger coach holding has increased from 30,002 as on 31.03.1997 to 33,260 as on 31.03.2001.

(c) No, Sir. The average coach utilization has increased by about 9.05% over the period from 31.03.1997 to 31.03.2001 as compared to a 10.85% increase in coach holding over the same period.

(d) Does not arise.

Reduction in power tariffs by States for the railways

412. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have requested the State Governments to reduce power tariffs and contribute to the expansion and electrification network in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of State Governments thereto?